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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09226 261642Z

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 L-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 H-01 EURE-00 /025 W
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O 261543Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1795

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9226

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, US
SUBJECT: ITALIAN POLICE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON
ALLEGED BRIBES PAID BY U.S. MULTINATIONALS

REFS: STATE 150386; STATE 150341

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

1. THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN THE ABOVE MESSAGES ARE OF CONCERN TO US ALL AND I WOULD NORMALLY WELCOME A VISIT FROM MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE OR ITS SENIOR STAFF. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED VISIT OF MR. LEVINSON AND MS. LISSAKERS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THEY APPARENTLY INTEND TO MAKE THEIR OWN APPOINTMENTS WITHOUT ANY NOTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OR THE EMBASSY ABOUT WHOM THEY WILL SEE. THE ONLY SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE BANANA AND OIL SCANDALS ARE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENT, PRESS AND LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE LATTER ARE NOT LIKELY TO PROVIDE MUCH INFORMATION THAT IS NOT ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. AND INDISCRIMINATE CONTACTS WITH THE FORMER COULD LEAD TO UNWELCOME PUBLICITY AND UNWARRANTED INFERENCES ABOUT USG ATTITUDES ON SENSITIVE ITALIAN POLITICAL ISSUES.

2. IN VIEW OF THE REAL POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGE TO OUR OVERALL
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INTERESTS IN ITALY, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE

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AT A SENIOR LEVEL IN THE DEPARTMENT WILL TALK TO SENATOR CHURCH
AND/OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND SEEK TO CLARIFY
THE PURPOSE OF MR. LEVINSON'S VISIT AND TO URGE THAT HE ACT
WITH APPROPRIATE DISCRETION IN PURSUING ANY CONTACTS IN ITALY.
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